



# Volunteer in 2002

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Superintendent, Rolling Meadows Golf Course



I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the WGCSA as president. I am looking forward to leading this great association for the upcoming months.

I write this message as I sit at the airport on my way home from the chapter delegates meeting at GCSAA

headquarters. This was my second trip to Lawrence, a trip I encourage every member to make. None of us fully appreciate all GCSAA has to offer its chapters and members. There are a lot of resources and information that members only have to ask for to receive.

The message foremost on my mind is volunteerism and member involvement. Chapters around the country are seeing less interest in their associations and meetings as our lives are filled with many challenges and activities. But we need to keep in mind both the WGCSA and GCSAA exist and prosper because members donate their time and knowledge. I want to encourage each of you to give time to your chapter.

As golf course employees we should volunteer to give back to the game and industry that supports our careers and families. Without member involvement our industry would be lessened in many areas. Top of the list would be the research we support and information we provide through meetings and publications. Meetings and seminars provide formal education while the networking provides a direct sharing of information. Only through your involvement are education and promotion of the game of golf possible. Helping out with the association is enjoyable and builds relationships that last forever.

The biggest way to volunteer is to run for a WGCSA board position. Of course not everybody wants that challenge, but members can volunteer for a WGCSA or a GCSAA committee post. These committees help run the association and guide its future without a large time commitment. Other very important ways to contribute are to write an article for the Grass Roots

about a new program at your course or volunteer to speak at a monthly meeting. Participation can be as simple as hosting or attending events and meetings. Even better, bring a potential new member or a member who does not participate to a meeting. Last but not least, small things like responding to questionnaires, Noernet posts or surveys allow the association to disseminate information and are important.

Ten years ago I wrote President Bruce Worzella to volunteer my time where needed. I have enjoyed my commitment to WGCSA and look forward to now serving as president myself. We all have different employment and family situations and contribute in different ways, but this is our association and we need to work together to be successful. This is your invitation to be involved and make a difference in the future of your association. ♣

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